

ABM SPECIAL STUDY GROUP

Revised Minutes of Meeting Held 17 April 1969
Central Intelligence Agency
Room 6E22, Langley
1010-1200 Hours

25X1A

Chairman -

[REDACTED]

NIPE

Attendance

25X1A

[REDACTED]

(M)

Col. A. Wood (M)

NSA

OSD(SA)

25X1A

[REDACTED]

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Mr. Robert Munn (AM)

DIA

CIA

State Department

25X1A

[REDACTED]

NIPE

NIPE

M - Member

AM - Alternate Member

O - Observer

GROUP I

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Revised
30 April 1969

25X1A 1. The meeting opened with distribution of a paper prepared by Col. Wood. The paper was prepared in response to the Interim Report and takes issue with the methodological approach of the ABM Study.

██████████ proposed that the Committee take time to review Col. Wood's paper and reconvene in a week's time to discuss its impact on the Interim Report and/or on the Study.

2. Col. Wood said that the problem goes beyond the Interim Report, that the methodology needs to be reassessed; moreover, that for bureaucratic and substantive reasons the Study is "bigger than all of us". He indicated that his pessimism was conditioned by the time required to handle the problems and the Committee's inability to maintain the necessary continuity of effort. His argument against the methodology centered on his belief that the Network is an overstatement of ABM information needs; that the only information needs of significance are those which permit evaluation, with high confidence, of alternative penetration modes; that such information needs would be many fewer in number; that values -- based on differential fatalities, for example -- can be ascribed only to the subsets of information associated with the respective penetration modes; that each element of information within a subset would be of equal value because all were necessary and without all there would be no value.

25X1A 3. ██████████ responded by pointing out that the need to treat subsets has been taken into consideration from the beginning and that the major challenge is to develop means to define all of the essential subsets. A lesser challenge is getting the necessary analytic help to flesh out the subsets, with values, after they are defined. He stated that we had to balance time and resources and, within these constraints, do the best job possible. He asked Messrs. ██████████ Munn and ██████████ and Col. Wood if they would find out if their organizations could each provide an analyst for a two-to-three week period in order to hasten the selection and development of subsets and to help with computational problems.

25X1A 4. The problem of selecting subsets of information from the total number of elements of information, more than 600, was discussed. Col. Wood pointed out the vast number of possible combinations and that some systematic method was needed to determine which of the 600 or so elements of information are really required. Messrs. ██████████ pointed out that Col. Wood's concern had been recognized by the Working Group from the beginning and, in essence, that the methodology is designed to handle them. Mr. Munn told Col. Wood that he saw no inconsistency

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between Col. Wood's position and what has been done and that if Col. Wood went to analysts with his approach the result would be an approximation of the work already done. The discussion terminated inconclusively.

5. It was agreed to meet on Wednesday, 23 April 1969, at 1000 hours to discuss recommendations about the Interim Report and methods for finding useful subsets of observables.

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Executive Secretary

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